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**From:** Melvin, Karen [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B65F9758D726421185D69F59824F8DEE-KMELVIN]  
**Sent:** 12/14/2020 12:28:21 PM  
**To:** Joan Armstrong [Armstrong.Joan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: R3 executive events and agency-wide messages for next week

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**From:** Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** R3 DIRECTORS <R3\_DIRECTORS@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** R3 executive events and agency-wide messages for next week

Directors,

Planned R3 executive events and next week's agency-wide messages below.

**Executive Events**

- Dec 15: Inaugural Regional Tribal Operations Committee (OCTEA)
- Dec 17: Chesapeake Bay Principals' Staff Committee (CBPO)

**DRAFT-DELIBERATIVE / CONTENT SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**MESSAGE OF THE WEEK: WINNING ON FOOD WASTE REDUCTION**

- On Monday, EPA, FDA and USDA announced the renewal of the joint agency formal agreement under the Winning on Reducing Food Waste Initiative. The agreement reaffirms the agencies' commitment to improve coordination and communication efforts to better educate Americans on the impacts and importance of reducing food loss and waste.
- Since the Trump Administration launched the Winning on Reducing Waste Initiative, great success has been achieved with EPA's latest report showing a decrease in food reaching landfills by 5 billion pounds.
  - Help from public-private partnerships, like the United States Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champions is a key ingredient to successfully reducing food loss and waste.
  - In 2020, the Trump Administration has welcomed 10 new businesses and organizations to the 2030 Champions. The renewed three-year agreement will continue to build off these successful partnerships and reiterate our shared commitment to work towards the national goal of reducing food loss and waste by 50% by 2030.
  - Meeting the national goal of cutting food waste in half by 2030 will take a sustained commitment from everyone. Success requires action from the entire food system.

- In 2019, the agencies also entered into formal agreements with ReFED and the Food Waste Reduction Alliance. In May 2020, the federal interagency strategy was updated by listing contributing efforts being done in each of the six priority action areas:
  - Priority Area 1: Enhance Interagency Coordination
  - Priority Area 2: Increase Consumer Education and Outreach Efforts
  - Priority Area 3: Improve Coordination and Guidance on Food Loss and Waste Measurement
  - Priority Area 4: Clarify and Communicate Information on Food Safety, Food Date Labels, and Food Donations
  - Priority Area 5: Collaborate with Private Industry to Reduce Food Loss and Waste Across the Supply Chain
  - Priority Area 6: Encourage Food Waste Reduction by Federal Agencies in their Respective Facilities
- **BACKGROUND**
  - The Winning on Reducing Food Waste Initiative is a collaborative effort among USDA, EPA, and FDA to reduce food loss and waste through combined and agency-specific action.
  - Individually and collectively, these agencies contribute to the initiative, encourage long-term reductions, and work toward the goal of reducing food loss and waste in the United States. These actions include research, community investments, education and outreach, voluntary programs, public-private partnerships, tool development, technical assistance, event participation, and policy discussion.
  - In October 2019, the agencies signed a partnership with the Food Waste Reduction Alliance, formalizing education and outreach efforts with three major sectors of the supply chain: food manufacturing, retail, and restaurant and food service.
- **FACTS ABOUT FOOD WASTE:**
  - EPA data estimates that more food (over 70 billion pounds) reaches landfills constituting than any other material in everyday trash, constituting 24 percent of discarded municipal solid waste.
  - Landfills are the third largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States.
  - Food waste not only impacts landfill space and emissions, it negatively impacts the economy. USDA estimates the value of food loss and waste for retailers and consumers each year to be over \$161 billion.
  - Wasted food also results in unnecessary expenditures of U.S. domestic energy resources. Every time food is lost or wasted, all the energy that went into producing that food is also wasted.

#### *List N*

- EPA continues to take action to ensure that Americans can disinfect public spaces effectively and efficiently to control SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- EPA has compiled a [list of disinfectant](#) products, including ready-to-use sprays, concentrates, and wipes, that can be used against COVID-19.
- When using these products, always follow the directions and safety information on the label. A disinfectant product's safety and effectiveness may change based on how it is used.

#### **HQ PRESS RELEASES**

##### *Monday, December 14*

- EPA Recognizes Excellence and Innovation in Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects (Regions 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 amplify)
- EPA Lean Management System Enhances Efficiency to Improve Management of America's Water Resources
- (T) EPA Finalizes Action Protecting Americans from PBT Chemicals

##### *Wednesday, December 16*

- National Tribal Toxics Council Grant (All regions amplify)

##### *Thursday, December 17*

- Trump Administration Sets the Pace for Food Loss and Waste Reduction Efforts to Continue (All regions amplify)
- EPA Announces Decision on Florida's Request to Administer a Clean Water Act Program

##### *Friday, December 18*

- San Mateo WIFIA loan closing (Region 9 amplify)

##### *TBD*

- TSCA Fees

- Final Lead Dust Clearance Level (All regions amplify)
- National Aquatic Resources Survey
- Water Subcabinet Actions (Jointly with DOI)

#### AW MEDIA INTERVIEWS

- To be scheduled

#### AW SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 12/15: AO Honor Awards Celebration (Internal)

#### SOCIAL MEDIA\*

<i><b>Monday</b></i>	<i><b>Tuesday</b></i>	<i><b>Wednesday</b></i>	<i><b>Thursday</b></i>	<i><b>Friday</b></i>	<i><b>Saturday</b></i>	<i><b>Sunday</b></i>
EPA at 50	EPA at 50	EPA at 50	EPA at 50	EPA at 50		
SRF Projects		NTTC	FL 404	San Mateo WIFIA		
OW ELMS			Food Waste Reduction			

\*Posts on flagship EPA and Administrator Wheeler accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, You Tube)  
*Programs and Regions are encouraged to share as applicable to your audiences. (T) = tentative.*

#### SHARABLE DIGITAL CONTENT

Download from the Digital Resource Library on the [OPA Information Hub](#)

- Winning on Food Waste Reduction

#### REGIONAL PRESS RELEASES, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/14-15: Charles River Report Card (R1)
- 12/14: Aquarius award: Washington County Service Authority, Virginia—Rattle Creek Road Water Main Extension (R3)
- 12/14: Pisces award: The Nature Conservancy—Clinch River Valley, Virginia Land Conservation Project (R3)
- 12/14: Cleanup work completed for this year; to resume in the Spring at Jacobsville Superfund Site in Indiana (R5)
- 12/14: KXLF (Butte MT broadcast) brief interview with RPM and CIC on Butte Superfund site regarding community outreach (R8)
- 12/15: Inaugural Regional Tribal Operations Committee (R3)
- 12/15: Texas SRF grant PR (R6)
- 12/15: Arizona NPS plan approval + NPS grant, AZ (R9)
- 12/17: Final Permit for Cleanup of Housatonic River (R1)
- 12/17: Home Depot Settlement (R1)
- 12/17: EPA Announces Decision on Florida's Request to Administer a Clean Water Act Program (R4)
- 12/17: Texas WINN Grant PR (R6)
- 12/17: 10th Annual R7 and R8 State Departments of Agriculture Meeting (R7)
- 12/18: Release for Intern Position Availability (R7)
- TBD: Lead RRP settlement (VT) (R1)
- TBD: EPA, DOJ \$245 consent decree entered to address cleanup of Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site in Michigan (R5)
- TBD: Denver Water lead reduction plan article amplification via SM. Will amplify Denver Water posts (R8)
- TBD: Jakob Rodgers Freelance reporter-interview with SME on Superfund/Brownfield sites within 80216 Zip code (North East Denver) (R8)
- TBD: Qantas disinfectants ENF case, SoCal & HI (R9)
- TBD: Smoky Mtn Helicopters/cesspool, HI (R9)

- TBD: Wildfire response mission completion, CA (R9)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS OR PROJECTS

- January 20: Presidential Inauguration

#### COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES

- AP Stylebook (public affairs staff writing for media): <https://www.apstylebook.com/epa/>
- EPA Stylebook (i.e. Agency Branding): <https://www.epa.gov/stylebook>
- OPA Information Hub: [https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/OA\\_OPA\\_HQ](https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/OA_OPA_HQ)

Chad Nitsch

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC, and 7 federally recognized tribes)

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